

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A food storage container comprising:

a base having a base bottom panel with an upper side, a lower side, and a base perimeter, and having a cylindrical side wall extending generally upward from the base perimeter, the side wall terminating at a top edge and defining an open top;

a lid having a top panel with a top side, a bottom side, and a lid perimeter terminating at a bottom edge, the top panel extending inwardly from the perimeter toward a center portion of the top panel, the top panel also having a first shoulder spaced inward from and around the perimeter and extending angularly downward relative to the top side, a first step extending inwardly from the first shoulder toward the center portion of the lid, a second shoulder extending angularly downward from the first step relative to the top side, and a recessed surface extending inwardly from the second shoulder forming the center portion of the top panel; and

a nesting structure provided at least in part on a portion of the base bottom panel and at least in part on the lid top panel, the nesting structure adapted for registering a portion of the lower side of the base with a portion of the lid top panel both when the lid is in a standard lid orientation and when the lid is in an inverted lid orientation, ~~the nesting structure part on the lid top panel including;~~

~~a recessed surface formed in the lid top panel and defining an annular shoulder extending between the recessed surface and the lid top panel, the annular shoulder having a step therein forming a first shoulder portion and a second shoulder portion, the first and second shoulder portions providing the nesting structure part on the lid top panel when in the respective lid orientations.~~

2. (Previously Amended) A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the base is nestable with other bases of other containers to form a base stack, and

wherein an exposed lower most base of the base stack is registerable with the lid in either lid orientation.

3. (Previously Amended) A food storage according to claim 1, wherein the lid is nestable with other lids of other containers to form a lid stack, and wherein a selected one of an upper most exposed lid and a lower most exposed lid of the lid stack is registerable with the lower side of the base.

4. (Previously Amended) A food storage container according to claim 2, wherein the lid is nestable with other lids of other containers to form a lid stack, and wherein a selected one of an upper most exposed lid and a lower most exposed lid of the lid stack is registerable with the exposed lower most base of the base stack.

5. (Original) A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the side wall is a generally circular cylinder.

6. (Original) A food storage container according to claim 5, wherein the side wall is at least a slightly frusto-conical circular cylinder.

7. (Original) A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the side wall is a generally rectangular cylinder.

8. (Currently Amended) A food storage container according to claim 1, ~~wherein the recessed surface is a downwardly recessed surface in the top panel relative to the standard orientation, and~~ wherein the nesting structure part of the base is a depending annular element extending downward from the base bottom panel that can rest on a selected one of a step top surface or a step bottom surface provided between the first and second shoulder portions.

9. (Previously Amended) A food storage container according to claim 8, wherein the depending annular element is a rib extending from the lower side of the bottom panel.

10. (Withdrawn) A food storage container according to claim 8, wherein the lower side of the bottom panel has an upwardly recessed section defining the depending annular element as a leg in the lower side between the recessed section and the base perimeter.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) A food storage container according to claim 1, wherein the nesting structure further comprises:

a first area on the lid for supporting an adjacent lid in a stacked lid configuration; and

a second area on the lid for supporting a base in a stacked lid and base configuration when the lid is in a standard orientation;

a third area on the lid for supporting a base in a stacked lid and base configuration when the lid is in an inverted orientation.

14.² (New) A food storage container according to claim 11¹, wherein the second area includes an inner shoulder surface that extends substantially continuously around a perimeter of the lid, the inner shoulder surface adapted to register with a portion of the base when the base is stacked upon the lid in the standard orientation.

15.¹³ (New) A food storage container according to claim 11¹, wherein the third area includes an outward facing shoulder surface that extends substantially continuously around a perimeter of the lid, the outward facing shoulder surface adapted to register with a portion of the base when the base is stacked upon the lid in the inverted orientation.